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Betty Taylor

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November 13, 1973

William E. Johnson
Law Librarian
West Virginia University
Morgantown, WV 26506

Dear Bill:

Thank you for expressing your thoughts on the Union List proposal. It is a formidable task and contrary to your expectations, the majority of responses are now negative, although nearly everyone would buy copies of printouts of other libraries' holdings.

I was hoping that most libraries had already checked the lists and that completing the forms would be merely a clerical function which could be accomplished within a month's time-frame. Unfortunately, this proves to be an erroneous assumption on my part and as you predict, staff limitations prohibit active participation as weighed against the value of the final product.

Your views on the esoteric lists are the antithesis of mine. As a matter of fact, I was considering eliminating the "A" books and proposing a Union List of "B" and "C" books which might be the most helpful to Interlibrary Loans and cooperative acquisitions functions. Checking these lists, including the foreign ones, would identify the strong collections as a source for borrowing and also avoiding unnecessary acquisitions within a geographical region.

Eighteen law libraries in the southeast are cooperating in the project. Of course, we have been discussing this undertaking for several years which has given the libraries an opportunity to gain some lead time in the checking. But surprisingly enough, only one or two are adhering to the published deadlines; 90% are way ahead of the time schedule or complete.

Enclosed is the "Property" form, also our published schedule in case you have any thoughts on joining in the project. It is not too late to prepare for the January 1 deadline!

Sincerely,

Betty W. Taylor
Director, Law Library

BWT:mp

Encs.

cc: L. Chanin
P. Von Allmen
B. Younger